

Children's Newspaper

Every Tuesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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UNSOLVED MYSTERIES OF THE AFRICAN WILDS

Glimpses of Strange Beasts Unknown to Zoologists

Half-fish, half-antelope—such was the description of a strange creature sighted recently by some anglers in the Western Transvaal and reported in a local newspaper. The report started some lively discussion, for there are many people in southern Africa who hold the belief that in the primeval forests and inaccessible swamps of the great continent lurk incredibly fearsome monsters unknown to zoologists. Here a South African correspondent gives some views and sidelights on this fascinating idea.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD DIVER

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy, from Redcliffs in Victoria, dived from a 33-foot tower at the local baths recently and then swam the length of the pool. His name is Gordon Lang, and he had learned to swim only six weeks before.

Re-appearance of a Lake

TRAVELLERS across the great South Australian desert recently reported the appearance on the almost dried-up bed of Lake Eyre of a 1000-square mile sheet of water.

In prehistoric times the lake—normally covering at least 4000 square miles—was a great inland sea, but it dwindled through drought to little more than a salt marsh. Now weeks of rain are reported to have caused tiny streams to become torrents. In the heart of the desert grass several feet high sprang up; wild-fowl, duck, pelicans, cockatoos, and other creatures appeared where there had been almost no life owing to lack of water; fish and frogs were seen in newly-formed ponds.

SPIV IS A VIP

ABOARD the Royal Mail Line ship *Audes*, now outward bound from Southampton, is a two-year-old tortoiseshell cat named Spiv. This is her third ship, for she has seen service as "mouser" in two others of the same line, and altogether has travelled 110,000 miles.

Spiv is serving on the *Audes* because she is the pet of Captain B. K. Berry, who has taken over this vessel. She was born in the bottom drawer of his wardrobe aboard one of his earlier ships and now is a VIP. No odd corner in the galley will do for Spiv's sleeping place; her favourite berth is right in "the old man's" stateroom—and on his arm-chair at that.

A FEW weeks ago some men were fishing in a big irrigation dam near Klerksdorp, in the Western Transvaal, when their attention was drawn to a strange creature in the water. It appeared to be half-fish, half-antelope, with a neck two feet long, eyes as big as half-crowns, and a tail that made wide swishing movements. They pursued it in a boat, but the monster dived, came out on the farther side of the lake, and disappeared into the dense bush.

When a report appeared in the local newspaper many people were inclined to disbelieve the whole story. Nevertheless, the frequency with which white men and natives alike see such curious monsters and reptiles in southern Africa suggests that it cannot all be due to imagination.

Some years ago a certain Mr F. Grobler returned from a trip to Angola and described an animal he had seen there, in the vicinity of the Diloio Swamps: "The weight of the monster whom the natives call *chipehwe* must be about four tons, and it attacks rhino, hippo, and elephants. It has the head and tail of a lizard, and a German scientist even photographed it. The natives swear by its existence, and although I could not locate it, I am convinced the *chipehwe* is no figment of the imagination."

That is only one of the accounts that hunters returning from the remote wilds have given of strange reptiles. Major H. C. Maydon, a great big-game hunter, has reported: "I met a man, an old prospector, in Livingstone, Rhodesia, who swore that

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WALKING 159,000 MILES

MR MALCOLM MACASKILL, who has been awarded the BEM on retiring after 46 years' service as postman in Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides, estimates that during the course of his duties he has walked 159,000 miles.

Mr MacAskill's daily route was not an easy one, either, for it extended over trackless moors, and skirted lonely lochs that were



KEEPING FIT BY JUMPING TO IT!

Every week nearly two million girls in Britain play netball, and Bedfordshire is the only county in England without a county team. During the Festival of Britain teams from the Commonwealth and the Continent will be coming over to play British teams. In this picture Maisie Eriksen, 20-year-old student of Homerton College, Cambridge, leaps for the ball.

Great Day For India

A NEW REPUBLIC

FROM January 26, 1950, India will be known as a Republic, and, while not recognising the legal sovereignty of King George, she will still be a member of the British Commonwealth.

Under her new Constitution India will have a President instead of the present Governor-General. There will be a Parliament for the whole of India composed of 500 members. In the 18 Provinces there will be a Governor appointed by the President, and each Province will have its own elected Parliament of a size dependent upon the population. The general principle is that for the Federal Parliament there will be one member for every 7,500,000 people, and, in the Provincial Parliament, one member for every 100,000.

The Untouchables

The great step forward in this new Indian Constitution as compared to the old system is, that there will be no "reserved" seats for any religious minorities, but all citizens have an equal vote and can elect the person of their choice from among the candidates of the various political parties. There is, however, an exception, and that is for the scheduled castes, composed largely of the untouchables numbering nearly 50 millions, who will have special representatives in all the Parliaments. This special consideration will last for ten years, after which they will vote along with the others.

One other exception has been made. It is for the Anglo-Indians, who are the children of mixed marriages between the Europeans and the Indians and number 130,000. On the basis of population these people have no representation at all, but they have been given four seats in the Federal and one in each Provincial Parliament.

America's Place in the World

GREAT PROGRESS

PRESIDENT TRUMAN's recent Message on the State of the Union (the Union being the United States of America) was one of the most interesting in recent history.

In a sweeping review the President pictured the rise of the US to pre-eminence in the past 50 years. He reminded his listeners in Congress and outside Congress that of the great changes which this century has seen none was more important than the change in the position of the US in world affairs.

He asked them to compare the position of the Republic in 1900 with that today. Then the US was mainly occupied with developing its own internal resources and the vast half-inhabited territory. Today the population of the US has doubled and the value of national production has increased fivefold.

America today earns more and produces more than any other nation on the globe. The American standard of living, added the President, was an inspiration for all other peoples. But, he warned, even the slightest changes in America's economic and social life have their effect on other countries all around the world.

New Responsibilities

The key to the Message was contained in these words: "Our tremendous strength has brought with it tremendous responsibilities. We have moved from the outer edge to the centre of world affairs. Other nations look to us for a wise exercise of our economic and military strength and for vigorous support of the ideals of representative government and a free society. We will not fail them."

Those who watch the American scene agree that the general lines of the President's policy as explained in this and other New Year Messages give an impression that the American Government are fully prepared to live up to their declared policy. They demand from the Congress that the famous Point Four programme (announced in the New Year's Message of 1949) of technical help to backward countries be fulfilled... that the European Recovery Programme be continued and not left—as the President expressed it—"roofless"... that a peaceful democratic world of free peoples be achieved not by force of arms but by an appeal to the minds and hearts of men.

Social Security Plans

Parallel to this great and noble programme of help to foreign nations in all parts of the world the President drew the picture of help to the less privileged classes of the American people. He urged the Congress again to pass his civil rights proposals giving real equality to Negroes, to improve housing conditions of the poorer Americans, to curb economic monopolies, and to carry out fuller social security plans, as protection against the hazards of illness, unemployment, and old age.

With an insistence which few American Presidents have shown, Mr Truman pursues his ideal of "Fair Deal" to his countrymen and to the world at large.



FROM ONE PARLIAMENT TO ANOTHER

PARLIAMENT has a continuous existence. Thus, on February 3, when the King issues his Proclamation dissolving the 1945 Parliament, the form of words used by long custom will also summon the new Parliament of 1950 and appoint a day for its meeting.

The Proclamation, in fact, is "for dissolving the Present Parliament, and Declaring the Calling of Another"—this is plainly stated at the outset.

Dissolution

King George has been "pleased to signify his acceptance of the Prime Minister's recommendation that His Majesty should proclaim the Dissolution of Parliament on Friday, February 3."

This official announcement from 10, Downing Street tells us, therefore, that it is the Prime Minister who decides the date when the Government shall "go to the country." That date is February 23. Nomination Day, when candidates cease to be "prospective" and we know who is to fight the election and where, is February 13.

Note that there are ten days between each of these dates; in fact, however, Sundays are not counted. By law, Nomination Day is the eighth day after the Proclamation. Polling Day, the climax of the election, falls on the ninth day after Nomination.

Further, by the same law, the new Parliament must meet not less than 20 clear days after the Proclamation. March 1—St David's Day—has been selected for this, well within the limit. The King will open the Parliament in State on March 6. By that time the new MPs will have elected their Speaker and taken the Oath of Allegiance.

The Downing Street announcement fixing the day of the election was made on January 10, at which time many people assumed the election "battle" had begun.

But here a reservation has to

be made. In law, it has never been discovered when an election is deemed to begin. This subject is extremely important in view of the current controversy about candidates' expenses, to which there are legal limits.

In general, a candidate is allowed to spend a basic sum of £450, plus 1½d or 2d (according to the status of his division) for every name on the electoral register. There are 34,410,306 voters' names on this register in England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

These voters will decide on February 23 which MPs—out of some 1600 to 1800 candidates—they will send to represent them at Westminster. Competition this time is for 625 seats, compared with 640 in the Parliament which closes on February 3. In that Parliament legislation was passed abolishing the 12 University seats and revising the boundaries of most of the others.

In the Proclamation, first approved by the Privy Council and then copied 2000 times (with the Great Seal attached to each copy) for display on public buildings throughout the country, the Lord Chancellor is given instructions to "forthwith issue out Writs, in due form and according to law, for calling a new Parliament."

Returning Officers

These writs, bearing the King's signature, are sent to Returning Officers everywhere commanding them to hold an election. The Returning Officer is usually the chief citizen in a Parliamentary division.

Returning Officers are unpaid but get expenses from the State. Among their many jobs they must give public notice of an election, issue nomination forms, and order ballot papers.

When the election is over they announce the result of the count, and "return" it to the King through an official known as the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

MYSTERIES OF THE WILDS

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he had seen a water monster in Lake Mweru and had studied its tracks. Why has no one yet seen these beasts in the flesh for certain or brought one to bay? Because they are forest or swamp dwellers. How many Africans have seen a bongo, or a giant forest hog, or yellow-backed duiker, and yet these creatures are not excessively rare."

The notion that southern Africa has been more or less thoroughly explored is encouraged by school atlases; these show the continent to be full of names, whereas there are vast unknown stretches. In these places may live unknown

creatures. The okapi was unknown to white men until 1900.

In 1920 Monsieur Lepage, who had been in the Congo, reported coming across an extraordinary animal of great size in a swamp. It charged him, making a great noise, and he had fired in self defence. When the monster made off he examined it through his binoculars. He guessed its length to be thirty feet, it had a pointed snout and a scaly hump on its shoulders. The forefeet appeared to be solid, like those of a horse, but the hind feet were separated into digits.

Strange creatures, yes. But Africa is a strange land, and one thing is certain—it has not yet yielded up all its secrets.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

DANISH EGGS

During 1949 Denmark shipped more eggs to Britain than she did before the war—66,700 tons compared with an average pre-war figure of 61,500 tons.

Since 1939 Australia's industrial production has risen by 45 per cent, and the value of her output by 140 per cent.

Stuart Parkinson, 20-year-old Cambridge undergrad, has become the British ski champion. In competition with 24 of Britain's leading skiers, he showed the best all-round form.

The Nicobar Islands have got their first bishop. He was formerly Canon John Richardson, a Nicobar priest.

More English Cheese

The Food Ministry has announced that this year more milk will be available for cheese. That means an increased production of Wensleydale, Stilton, Blue Cheshire, and other famous English cheeses.

Prizes Worth Over £750

for Pupils and Schools

IN next week's issue particulars will be given of CN's second annual National Handwriting Test for schoolgirls and schoolboys who are under 17.

CASH awards totalling £150 for pupils and their schools are waiting to be won; and there are 1250 other prizes for girls and boys.

IN the same issue will appear the opening instalment of a new picture-version of Robert Louis Stevenson's great adventure story *Treasure Island*, as well as many other attractive features.

Make sure of receiving your CN next Wednesday and each following Wednesday by placing a firm order with your news-agent now. (See page 6.)

Antique silver worth £714,000, looted by the Nazis from occupied countries, is being sold in New York for the benefit of the International Refugee Organisation.

Two French scientists claim that they have successfully isolated foot-and-mouth disease.

In his Budget message President Truman has asked for 1,000,000 dollars (£357,000) for a tomb for America's Unknown Warrior of the Second World War.

AUSTRALIA'S GIFTS

Last year more than 1,250,000 parcels were sent by Australians through the Food for Britain scheme.

Patrol Leader William Harrison, 14, of the 62nd Salford Group, Lancs, has been awarded the Scout Silver Cross for going to the rescue of two boys in danger of drowning at Prestatyn, North Wales, last August.

Ralph Sleight of Ipswich and Peter Jopling of Chichester have returned home after driving from England to Cape Town in 24 days, 3 hours—a record run.

Munye, son of Masa, a native of Uganda, has been awarded the George Medal for dragging the pilot of a crashed R.A.F. plane clear of the wreckage last February.

Two Great Londoners

A memorial plaque has been placed on John Galsworthy's house at Hampstead, where much of the Forsyte Saga was written; and in John Adam Street, Adelphi, a plaque has been set up indicating the site of the house of Thomas Rowlandson, the artist.

The Ministry of Town and Country Planning is to preserve part of the Sussex coast around Camber Castle, near Rye. The stretch of sand between Fire Hills and Dungeness is an historic example of defences built up by the tide.

Sir Frank Whittle, the jet-propulsion pioneer, is in a new official film called "Wonder Jet."

In the four years up to January 1, 1950, the population of France (including Corsica) has risen by 1,650,000, and now totals about 41,800,000.

DOLLARS BY COLOURS

Knives with plastic handles of different colours and designs, and which resist boiling water and flame, are to be produced as dollar-earning novelties by a Sheffield cutlery firm.

Automatic monitors have replaced B.B.C. engineers in checking programme quality. When there is distortion, or unwanted noise creeps in the automatic monitor rings a bell and flashes a light.

Fifteen-year-old Leslie Elgie, of Seaham Harbour, Durham, holed out in one on the local golf course. The distance was 165 yards.

South African Guests

More South Africans will visit Britain this year than ever before. All passenger vessels are booked up until the end of June.

Senior Scout Derek Ottway, 15, of the 255th Bristol Group, has been awarded the Gilt Cross for his prompt action in sculling a dinghy to the rescue of a small boy in danger of drowning at Bristol last September. His Scoutmaster said that he sculled "like a speedboat."

A Bristol man returning from work felt something leap on to his shoulder. He thought it was a stray cat, but when he came to a street lamp he found it to be a monkey, escaped from Bristol Zoo.

The population of the world is increasing at the rate of about 22 million people a year, according to Lord Boyd-Orr, who also said that the world had about reached the pre-war level of food production.

The Pilgrim Trust has made a grant of £20,000 to Dulwich College Picture Gallery, which was wrecked by a flying bomb during the war, so that improvements can be made when it is rebuilt.

MONEY FOR YOUTH

King George's Jubilee Trust has approved grants totalling £63,950 for distribution this year to 32 youth organisations in Britain and Northern Ireland.

The names of Dickens characters are to be given to new blocks of flats in Kensington.

A memorial to Australians who died in the war is to be erected outside Australia House, in the Strand, London. A competition, open to all British sculptors, is to be held for the design.



A Ride on Ranee

Four-year-old Mary Budd, of Dawlish, Devon, and three-year-old Alan Sargent, of Woolwich, London, are taken for a ride by Ranee, the eight-year-old Indian elephant at the London Zoo.

HOME-BUILT HOUSE

A NEW type of interlocking brick which was invented recently in Australia is said to be so easy to use that an average handyman will be able to build his own house.

The Melbourne firm which has patented the brick claims that it will save at least 30 per cent in labour, materials, and costs.

Missionary Stamp

A UNIQUE specimen is contained in the new issue of stamps from the Cook Islands.

The new twopenny red carries a map of the island of Rarotonga; the head of John Williams, the missionary who discovered the island in 1823; and a picture of his famous ship The Messenger of Peace which John Williams built with the help of Rarotongans on the island in 1827. In addition there is a crown and a frieze of palm trees—a lot to carry on a small oblong stamp. Other islands in this beautiful group are portrayed on the half-penny, penny, and threepenny issues.

Dandy Learns to Swim

UNTIL Dandy Duck met Mr Martin Kotrba, of Omaha, Nebraska, she had had to stand on the river's edge sadly watching the other ducks swimming by. For Dandy could not swim; she was born with non-webbed feet.

But Mr Kotrba decided that something should be done. He remembered the webbed shoes he had worn during his service with an under-water demolition unit in the war, and he set about making a pair for Dandy. When he had finished them he tied them on Dandy's feet and placed her in a tub of water.

Poor Dandy was terrified. She fluttered her wings, tried to walk on the bottom, attempted to pull herself out, until finally—Dandy found herself swimming.

THE "SCOTTS" ARE GOING

MANY fathers will feel a twinge of regret when they hear that the famous Scott class of locomotives are being replaced on our railways by locomotives of a more modern type.

They were called the Scott class because each engine was named after a character from the pages of Sir Walter Scott. During the first ten years of this century when the Scott class began to appear boys rushed to collect the numbers of such romantically-named locomotives as Rob Roy, Hal o' the Wynd, and Quentin Durward.

No longer do these once formidable giants haul main-line expresses from one end of the country to the other; they are relegated to plebeian tasks about the railroad. Some, including the Sir Walter Scott itself, Madge Wildfire, and Ravenswood, have already fallen into the hands of the engine-breakers. Others will follow as new locomotives take their place.

With the passing of the Scotts a great deal of colour departs from our railways.

Golden Coconut

THE recent return of coconuts to our shops has been something of an occasion, for none had been seen in this country for several years, and they were quite unknown to most of our young children. But they have not caused a sensation like that created by the first of such nuts ever seen here—brought home by Drake from his great voyage.

This first coconut was presented as a mystic rarity to Queen Elizabeth, to whom it was gravely declared to be the egg of a dragon! The queen, for all her wisdom and learning, accepted the superstitions of her era, and had the nut bound with bands of gold, which kept in place a beautifully-wrought model of Drake's Golden Hind.

Thus transformed and ennobled, as it were, the golden coconut passed into the possession of the Drake family, to survive through the succeeding centuries as one of their most cherished treasures. There are coconuts similarly enriched with gold at The Hague, home of the Dutch royal family.

HISTORY OF PLAYTIME

APPROPRIATELY dedicated to all the world's children is a new book, *Children's Games Throughout the Year*, by Leslie Daiken (Batsford, 18s).

Life for boys and girls in bygone years was more sharply divided than today into lesson-time and playtime—the one too often gloomy, the other joyous. Teachers seldom thought of making lessons interesting, and paid no heed whatever to children's games. So the young folk built up a tradition of play—not the playing-field games we know, but such pastimes as touch-last, blindman's buff, oranges and lemons, leap-frog, marbles, whipping-tops, see-saws, swings, and scores of others. As a rule, they played each in a particular season of the year, and they have handed this tradition down to us.

Mr Leslie Daiken has not only given us a history of these games, but some delightful reading, with plenty of illustrations.

Lost in the Wilds of New Zealand

TAKING Dad for a holiday flight nearly ended disastrously when Cadet Pilot Ian Palmer, aged 18, of the R.N.Z.A.F., set out recently to fly his father in a light plane from Wanganui to New Plymouth in the south-west of New Zealand's North Island.

The story of their adventures reminds us that large areas in the interior of New Zealand are still primitive wilderness, without inhabitants or paths.

On their flight they ran into rainclouds and while attempting to fly under these their engine stalled, the plane hit a tree and landed on the edge of a cliff, and then fell into a gorge.

The two were only slightly cut, and they climbed out of the wreckage and found themselves

in a silent never-never land. On all sides was the gorgeous New Zealand bush with its giant ferns, but no hint of inhabitants and no tracks.

For ten days they lived on berries while they slowly fought their way through the tangle of the dense forest and undergrowth, swam across streams, and made tedious detours round waterfalls.

On the seventh day they came upon a deserted hut in which a hunter, not long previously, had left a piece of toast. This they shared, and staggered on. At last, when they were at the end of their strength, their clothes in rags and their shoes worn out, they reached a remote farm about 50 miles north of Wanganui.

In Search of

Latimeria Chalumnax

IT is announced that one of the aims of the research ship William Scoresby is to capture the fish called *Latimeria chalumnax* off the east coast of South Africa.

This fish belongs to a family that was thought to have died out some fifty million years ago, but a single specimen was landed in 1939, and the war prevented further search.

Hat Trick For Ireland?

THE season of Rugby internationals has now begun in real earnest, and a leading topic among rugby enthusiasts is: "Can Ireland win the title for the third year running?"

Champions in 1948 and 1949, the Irish Rugby XV now have the opportunity to set up a record without parallel by winning the title three years in succession. If they do complete a hat-trick of "Triple Crowns," much of the credit will go to Jack Kyle, that brilliant stand-off half of Queen's University, who has not missed a match in Ireland's colours for three seasons; and also to Norton, of Bective Rangers, one of the strongest full-backs and place-kickers in the game. Last season he scored 26 of Ireland's 41 points.

Stone Age Relics in the Pennines

FLINT weapons and tools of a primitive race that once peopled the Derbyshire hills have been found on a 1200-foot spur of Sir William Hill, in the Pennine Range. The implements were revealed by a plough, and were collected from the furrows by Mr C. Daniel, of Eyam.

The newly-discovered camping site has yielded an assortment of chipped flints, including a delicately-worked scraper, as well as cores, flakes, and unworked fragments which suggest that the tools were made on the spot.

Two smooth whetstones used for polishing the stone tools were found associated with the flints, and also a broken pebble of red granite which may have been used for the same purpose.

Investigation of the area is still incomplete, and it is hoped that further research may add to the discoveries already made.

BUSHRANGER'S GUN

MR JOHN BAIRD CROUCH, of Dover, Southern Tasmania, who once rode with the Kelly gang in Victoria, has given the rifle of another famous bushranger to the Tasmanian Museum. Once the property of Martin Cash, the most ruthless bushranger Tasmania ever knew, it is an ingenious weapon capable of rapid conversion from a walking-stick to a flint-lock gun.



Coming Out of School

Three laughing girls come out of the Stalin School, one of the first buildings to be finished in the new Stalingrad.

Young Artists of a Primitive Race

THE amazing talent for art of a group of young Australian Aborigines, which was discovered accidentally by a white school-master, is shown in the picture below. It was drawn by a pupil at a school for Aboriginal and half-caste children in the Carrolup Aboriginal Reserve in the south-west of Western Australia.

In charge of the school are Mr Noel White and his wife. When he first went there Mr White thought the children the dullest young humans he had ever met. They were shy, sullen, and frightened. He could find no point of contact with them. He talked

quality. He began to wonder if the other children had the same ability.

"That's a fine piece of work," he told the boy. "Would you like to try it in colours?"

The boy nodded his dark, curly head and Mr White at once brought out crayons and drawing-paper and gave them to the children.

Those crayons were the key to the young Blackfellows' unbounded love and confidence, and the beginning, too, of a remarkable artistic achievement.

Mr White found that these children of the most primitive



A painting by a 14-year-old Aborigine boy

to them, told them stories, showed them pictures, but they displayed little intelligence, and no interest in anything he tried to teach them.

Then he noticed one of the boys dreamily "doodling" on a dirty piece of paper. He went over and looked at what the dusky lad was drawing, and he was surprised at its artistic

quality. He began to wonder if the other children had the same ability. Their work has a freshness, strength, and certainty that is quite astounding. Even those under seven have turned out controlled and colourful designs.

Mr White himself is no artist; in fact, he says that he cannot draw a straight line; so he made no attempt to teach the young artists to draw, he simply



Two of the boys with Mrs Rutter

gave them the materials and left them to get on with it.

While the boys like drawing landscapes and animals, the girls prefer abstract designs.

The boys' work is vivid. They delight in sunsets and silhouetted trees, in leaping kangaroos and men dancing in the corroboree. There is a sense of design in their pictures—a surprising understanding of perspective, and a deep feeling for the country they know—a country of rolling hills, of gum-trees and grass-trees, where kangaroos roam and where opossums sleep among the branches.

These children seem to think in pictures. One boy made a series of sketches showing the opossum (a small, woolly-coated animal) in six carefully-observed and accurately-drawn attitudes, and with such remarks, written by the artist, as "Notice the lovely look on the 'possum's face and a bright twinkle in his eye."

Two of the boys are seen in the photograph above with Mrs Rutter, an Englishwoman who visited their school last year and bought a number of their drawings which she has shown in many Australian cities. She and Mr White hope to organise sales of the children's work, and raise money for tuition so that the most talented of the boys may have the opportunity of making a living as craftsmen.

UNIVERSES INNUMERABLE

By a Scientific Correspondent

It used to be thought that more and more powerful telescopes would reveal more and more stars. We now know that the number of stars in our galaxy, or universe, is limited. In some parts of the sky they are very numerous, as in the Milky Way, but in others they are relatively sparse. This is because of our position in the galaxy, for, looking in one direction we see the bulk of it and, in another, its outer boundaries.

The same, however, cannot be said of the other galaxies or island universes. Almost the last thing that the 200-inch telescope at Mount Palomar did before it was dismantled for inaccuracies of the mirror to be ground away, late in 1949, was to take a photograph of these island universes.

For this purpose the power of the telescope was exerted to the greatest extent, and a long exposure given. The exposure of 60 minutes was in a part of the sky chosen at random in the constellation Coma Berenices.

In this part of the sky there

were few stars, but the photographic plate showed an amazing spectacle. It was crammed with island universes, packed close together and covering the plate as closely as the dots in a C.N. photograph. There was no part of the plate that was not covered, the farthest island universe being a million million light years away. This is twice as far into the depths of space as can be reached with the 100-inch telescope, and represents, so the astronomers say, a sizeable chunk of the whole universe.

The spectacle of island universes so crowding a photographic plate that every part of it is covered is the more surprising when we consider that some of the old astronomers spent a lifetime in cataloguing a couple of hundred of them. These were the nearest and brightest, such as the nebula in Andromeda, which can be seen with the naked eye by those with good eyesight. The bulk of them, however, are so far away and so faint that a long exposure with the largest telescopes is needed to reveal them.

Stonehenge of the Pacific

AN Australian archaeologist, Mr Basil Hall, has been visiting the mysterious and still unexplained group of huge stones which lie on Kiriwina Island, north of the eastern tip of New Guinea.

Standing up out of a wilderness of trees and bushes like a replica of Stonehenge, these huge stones are a symbol of the ancient past which so far baffles the historians and archaeologists. Part of the Trobriand Islands, where the people still lead the most primitive life in the Pacific, Kiriwina protects its mystery by loneliness and inaccessibility.

The largest collection of stones covers about three-quarters of an acre. A short distance away is a second site, which, if not giving the same impression of

size, shows even more clearly the wall structure of a building 40 feet long. In both positions the axis of design is due east and west.

The first group offers the best field for investigation, if any trace of the builders is to be found, says Mr Hall. Here is the distinct ground plan of a large house, flanked at either end with what appears to be crazy pavement.

What remains of the walls is now a low, irregular parapet, in which it is still possible to see a careful fitting together of the upright stones, that are even jointed with smaller ones to make the outline whole.

The most fascinating object, however, is at the other end of the clearing. It is a monolith of coral standing more than 14 feet above ground and embedded four feet in the earth. This slab is 7 feet 3 inches at its widest, and 12 inches thick.

Around the monolith, which someone has named Jumbo, lie slightly smaller slabs of the same cement-like coral, roughly rectangular in shape, and having a smooth, dressed appearance, which might easily be the result of the mason's chisel.

Where did this Stonehenge of the Pacific originate? To move stones of such a size would require men with some knowledge of mechanics of the lever and roller type. Were the stones meant for worship, or sacrifice, or were they part of the city wall of some prehistoric Australasian race? It is a mystery that Australians are eager to solve.

FILMS—Continued

there are some lovely shots of other birds as well—swans, seagulls, and starlings.

When wild birds are young every effort is made to place a ring round one of their legs, so that in the years to come records can be made of their travels and migrations. That is why this charming picture is called *The Story of a Ring*.

ERIC GILLET, OUR FILM CORRESPONDENT, WRITES ABOUT . . .

Two Good Pictures From Italy and Russia

It is a good thing occasionally to put on record outstanding foreign films shown in London, even though they may not be released generally throughout the British Isles.

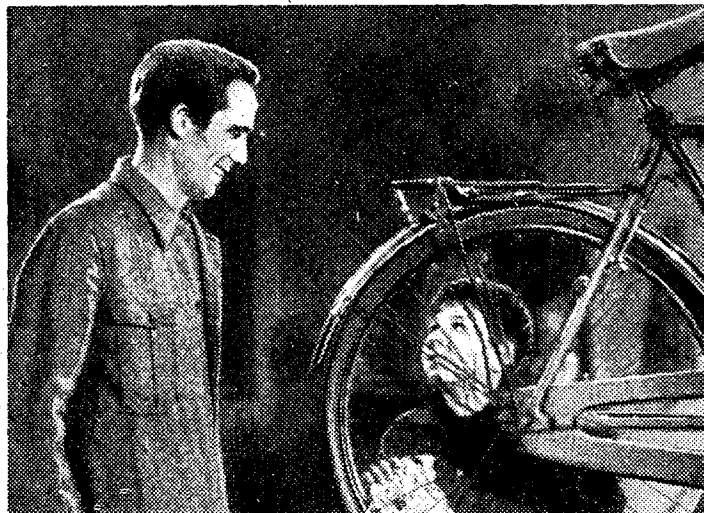
Two outstanding examples of the work done in European studios are to be seen in London now. *Bicycle Thieves*, an Italian picture made in the streets of Rome, was written and directed by Victor de Sica, and he chose all the actors except one from people who had never acted before. In spite of this the film has received awards at several film festivals. It was the brilliant direction of de Sica that has given us a most satisfying and natural picture.

Antonio, a Roman peasant, is out of work. He gets a job as a billposter and sells the sheets from his bed in order to get back his bicycle from the pawnbroker. He must have the machine for his new work. On the very first day it is stolen. With his little son Bruno, beautifully acted by Enzo Staiola, Antonio sets out to find the thief, and the search is full of humour and pathos.

Bicycle Thieves shows you life as it is lived, by poor people in Rome today. There is not a false note in it anywhere. You never feel that you are seeing a play or a film made from a book. This is life, and only the cinema

could have put it before you.

The criticisms have been so enthusiastic that it seems possible that audiences everywhere will have an opportunity of seeing *Bicycle Thieves*, and if you get the chance do not fail to



A scene from *Bicycle Thieves*

see it. It is an object lesson in film-making. It is also a thrilling and moving story.

The Russian picture, *The Story of a Ring*, directed by Boris Dolin, is also outstanding, one of the very best films of bird life I have ever seen.

It is the story of two storks. In the autumn these birds leave the Russian Ukraine for their long flight to their winter quarters on the shores of the Nile. One female damages her wing and is forced down. Her mate joins her. The others fly south.

As the days grow shorter and food is more difficult to get, the two birds find life hard. Then a kindly farmer finds them and carries the wounded bird to his house and sets the wing. The male bird follows cautiously, looking just like a timid and anxious husband.

The spring comes. The birds nest close by the farm and soon there are four fledglings opening their beaks wide to be fed. The camera catches almost every moment of importance in the lives of this stork family, and

The Children's Newspaper, January 28, 1950

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Members of the Centre setting out on a sketching expedition after receiving instructions from Miss Palmer



Studying fossils and sketching butterflies in the Club Room at the Museum



Two Club members discussing a dragon-fly. They know how to identify and mount the specimens they collect

Young Naturalists at Work

THE CN told last week of the Junior Naturalists' Club who went out on an expedition to make and collect plaster casts of wild animals' footprints. Here are pictures of the activities of the Club and Children's Centre at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington.

The Club recruits its members from these young London nature lovers who regularly attend the Children's Centre.

An exhibition of the work done by the Centre and the Club during the past year is being held at the Museum until January 28, and it includes sketches, collections, models, notebooks, and so on, made and compiled by these enthusiastic young people.

THE Children's Centre has a room of its own, off the Main Hall of the Museum, and here



Keeping the Club index

during the holidays, and on Saturday afternoons in term-time, young Londoners who are interested in Natural History collect materials for working at their hobby, and receive advice.

The boys and girls move about the huge rooms of the Museum, drawing, painting, or modelling various creatures, or reading about them, and making notes.

The ambition of many of the boys and girls is to become members of the Junior Naturalists' Club. Members are chosen

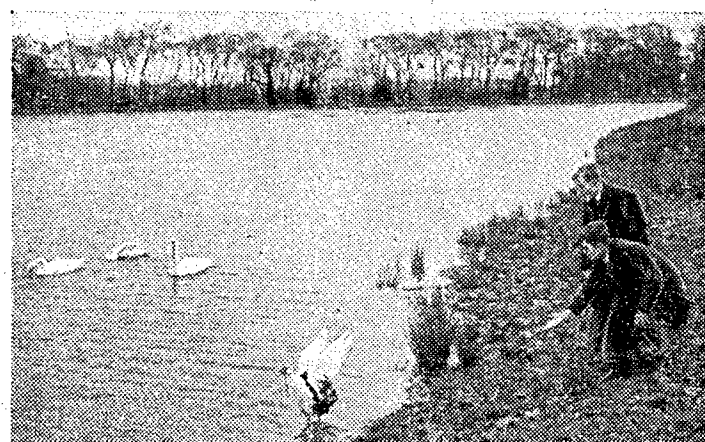


At the Club Library

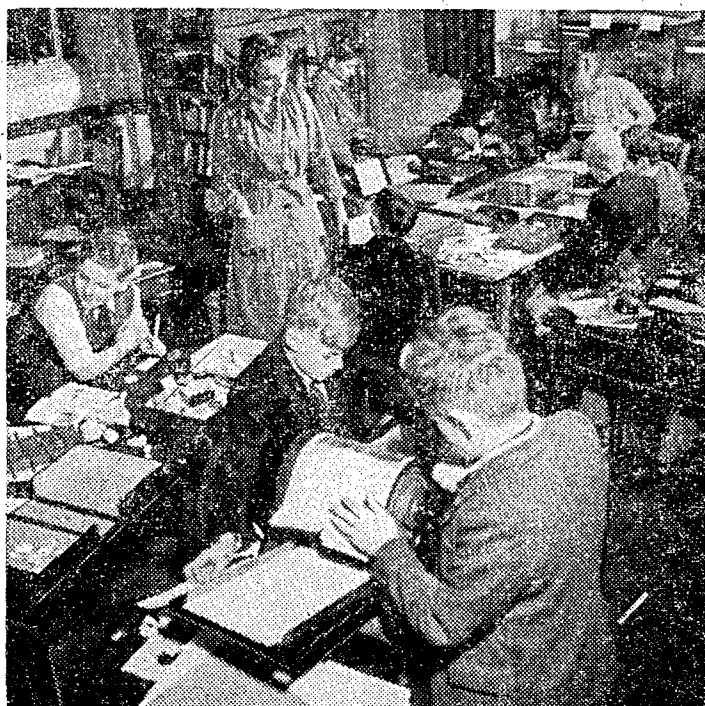
from those in the Centre showing lasting keenness, and producing some original work, usually done in the field.

THE Club members have a room of their own, and the difference between them and the others of the Centre is that they work on their own original ideas, using the Museum as an aid, while the Centre members are given some particular work to do in the Museum. The Club produces its own magazine giving news of its activities.

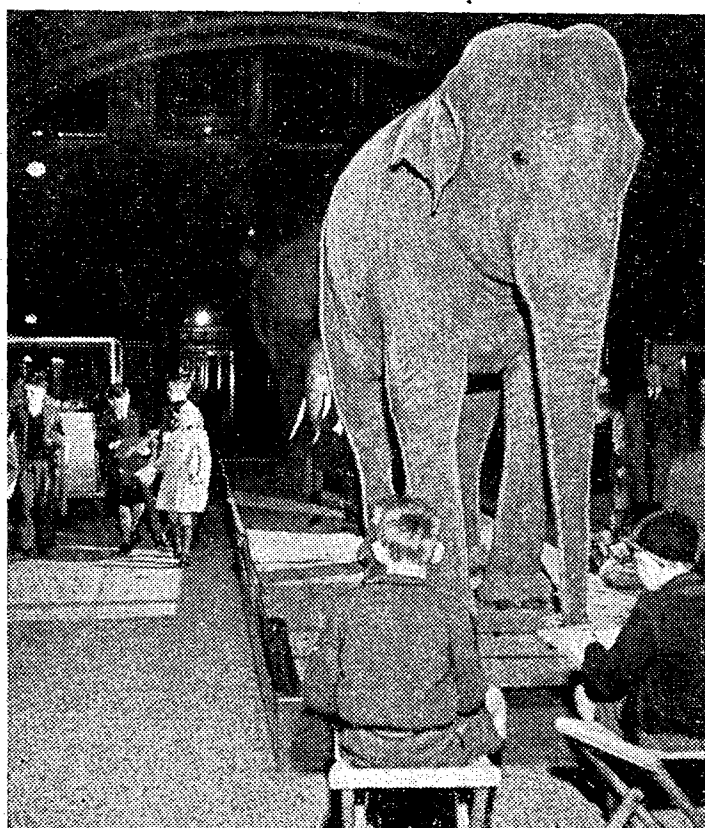
The idea of founding a Children's Centre and Junior Naturalists' Club was that of Miss Jacqueline Palmer, who is a Froebel and Newnham graduate.



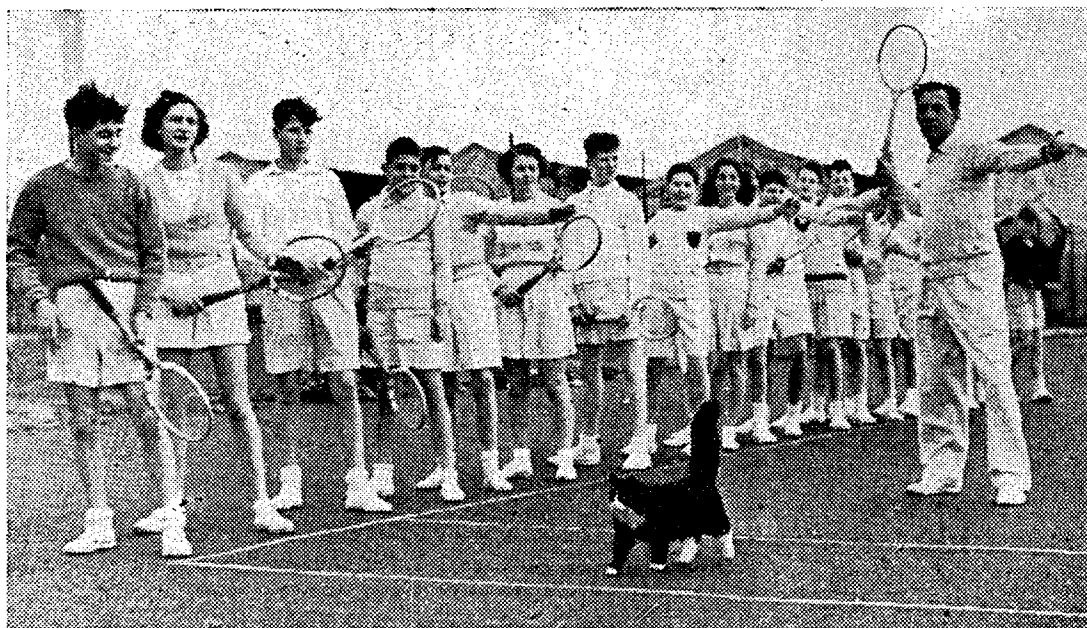
Field work—Club members make careful observations at the Pen Ponds, Richmond Park, which they will index at the Museum



Where the magazine is produced. Miss Palmer, founder of the Centre and Club, is talking to a member



Two young nature artists at work on an elephant at the Natural History Museum



Unimpressed!

Sixteen boys and seven girls chosen by the Lawn Tennis Association have been training at Middleton-on-Sea, under the supervision of Dan Maskell. Quite unconcerned by the line-up of potential tennis stars, Middleton, the school cat, crosses the court.

MAKING A FILM FOR £200

PROFESSIONAL film makers, who frequently spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on a single picture-play, should take note of a full-length film, *The Black Legend*, which Oxford students made recently in a Berkshire village for only £200. *Black Legend* has just been shown at the National Union of Students' Arts Festival at Birmingham.

The film deals with a country tragedy of bygone days, and most of the characters were played by villagers. In almost every case they played their parts admirably and with great naturalness, partly, no doubt, because they were enacting a true story that is woven into the history of their own countryside.

Little money was spent on technical apparatus. The trolley on which the camera followed the action of the film was simply a piece of wood laid between two sets of balloon tyres. The problem of rain-making was solved by punching holes in a trough and then pouring water into it. The result is a film which does great credit to an amateur enterprise.

Young Historian's Find

Nor long ago a student of Birmingham University, looking through some old manuscripts and deeds at Kidderminster Public Library, came upon a letter dated 1623 which is of considerable historic value, for it proves that the manufacture of tin-plate in this country began about 42 years before the time generally supposed.

Up to the beginning of the 17th century the secret of its manufacture was known only to craftsmen around Dresden; but the writer of the letter, John Tilte, tells his uncle that he and a friend are making good tin-plate from iron in a mill belonging to the Earl of Southampton, and he asks his uncle for some money to help him to carry on his new manufacture.

All the World Wants Books From Britain

FOR a great many years Britain has enjoyed the reputation of being the world's bookshop, and never has that reputation been more justified than now. Despite ten years of acute paper shortage and other handicaps, the value of our book exports is approximately three times greater than before the war. In 1939 the figure was £3,000,000, but by the end of 1948 it had risen to £8,500,000, and when the figures for 1949 are available they will doubtless show a further advance.

The world today is hungry for knowledge, and it is chiefly to Britain she is turning for books on engineering, industry, and science, and for educational textbooks generally. One reason for the increased demand is that in war-devastated countries countless millions of books were destroyed, and hundreds of publishers' plants wrecked. Germany, for example, previously had a world-wide trade in scientific and technical works, as well as school text-books.

In order to gain some idea of the types of books in greatest demand overseas, a C.N. correspondent approached a London firm claiming to be the biggest booksellers in the world, with a stock of nearly three million volumes.

The export manager of the company stated that the Far Eastern countries are placing large orders for technical, scientific, and military works; the U.S.A. are seeking rare illustrated books and first editions; Scandinavia, principally fiction and classics; Germany, technical and scientific titles; and West Africa, books of a religious nature. Turkey is anxious to purchase plays, books on drama, and a large range of light fiction.

One well-known publishing house authorised no fewer than 256 translations of their books in one year. The catalogue of one British publisher comprises 500 pages, listing something like 10,000 titles.

Truly, British books are in great demand everywhere.

TRINITY HALL'S 600 YEARS

A FAMOUS Cambridge college that owes its existence to the medieval plague called the Black Death is celebrating the 600 years of its history. It is Trinity Hall, the only Cambridge college to bear the old name of Hall, which it has retained to distinguish it from Trinity College founded by Henry VIII in 1546.

Trinity Hall was founded in January 1350 by William Bateman, Bishop of Norwich, in whose diocese clergymen had been swept away in hundreds by the pestilence of 1349.

The bishop remained dauntlessly at his post during this terrifying period, but he had to institute so many new clergymen that he found a growing difficulty in obtaining suitable recruits. This turned his thoughts to the question of training a sufficient number and he founded Trinity Hall for the education of future clergymen in canon law (church law) and civil law.

It was a college where students were obliged by the rules to argue, for disputes (about some legal point, of course) had to take place three times a week.

The students had at all times to speak in Latin.

Many famous men have studied at Trinity Hall. There was Thomas Bilney, the Protestant martyr who converted the famous martyr bishop, Hugh Latimer; and of a different faith, Bishop Stephen Gardiner, who practically ruled the country in the reign of Queen Mary—but tried to save Cranmer's life.



Among other great men of Trinity Hall were Lord Howard of Effingham; Robert Herrick, the poet; Earl Chesterfield, famous for his letters to his son; Viscount Fitzwilliam, who founded the Fitzwilliam Museum; and Bulwer Lytton, the novelist.

The Editor's Table

GREEN PLAYGROUNDS

Too many children have to play in the streets. In spite of all the work done by the Playing Fields Association there is a great lack still of green spaces for games. At Ascot the local boys and girls are now allowed to play on the racecourse, and we hope that the idea will spread to other racecourses. Sandown Park racecourse is also opening its grounds to footballers.

So much land nowadays must be given up to farming that space for playing pitches grows scarcer, so wherever there is a stretch of turf dedicated to some kind of sport let it be used on as many days and in as many ways as possible.

Hail and Farewell to Roman London

ARCHAEOLOGISTS seeking Roman London, and builders erecting new houses on bombed sites, have been engaged in a sort of race, the seekers of the past striving to gain all the information they can before the uncovered treasures disappear.

Mechanical excavators lay bare the remains of a Roman dwelling and the archaeologists must photograph, measure, and record it before it is buried anew under tons of concrete.

Recently, in Walbrook, another base of a Roman room was disclosed which, for the expert, was a mine of information about Roman building methods and even the Roman way of life in "Britannia Felix," as those ancient conquerors called our land. The experts had not long to make their record.

Future generations of students will bless these enthusiasts of today who are making and handing on records of the ancient London, which is being reburied, perhaps for ever.

BONNIE BELL

THE smiling spring comes in rejoicing,
And surly winter grimly flies;
Now crystal clear are the falling waters,
And bonnie blue are the sunny skies;
Fresh o'er the mountains breaks forth the morning,
The evening gilds the ocean's swell;
All creatures joy in the sun's returning,
And I rejoice in my bonnie Bell.

The flowery spring leads sunny summer,
And yellow autumn presses near;
Then in his turn comes gloomy winter,
Till smiling spring again appear.
Thus seasons dancing, life advancing,
Old Time and Nature their changes tell;
But never ranging, still unchanging,
I adore my bonnie Bell.

Robert Burns, born on January 25, 1759

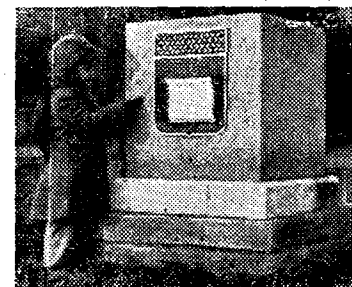
C.N. DAY

BEGINNING with next week's issue, dated February 4, your C.N. will be on sale on Wednesday instead of Tuesday.

Readers who have not placed a firm order with a newsagent to deliver the C.N. each week are urged to do so without delay. It may save disappointment, for many new readers are expected during the next few weeks and newsagents cannot provide with certainty for chance customers.

Please remember that in future Wednesday is C.N. Day.

Freedom Cornerstone



In the Gardens at Bedford now stands a block of stone (which has come from Bedford, Indiana) called a "cornerstone of freedom." It was sent "to the people of Great Britain from the people of Indiana . . . as a symbol of friendship and solidarity."

BRIGHTER BIBLES

It is good to learn that behind the scenes at the British and Foreign Bible Society there are plans for a Bible for Youth which will be printed in an attractive style, with illustrations appealing to young people.

Bibles are too often grim-looking books, and although brighter Bibles are no novelty we can never have too many of them. We hope soon to welcome the first of the new Bibles for youth.

JUST AN IDEA

As Archbishop Whately wrote, He only is exempt from failures who makes no efforts.

Under the



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW
If a dry speaker is
a wet blanket

A YOUNG lady who wanted to join a library described herself as a book-keeper. They told her she would have to bring them back.

MISCHIEVOUS boys often make good airmen. You never know what they are going to get up to.

A STRUGGLING author says I always gets manuscripts back on his birthday. Not happy return.

IN Middlesex 1320 fire alarm need a coat of paint. Someone will have to take his coat off.

MANY modern artists try to paint like children. Critics try to make them feel small.

THINGS SAID

THERE is nothing that matters so much in the world today as that we should get back to the standards which Christ set for us by his example, and by his teachings, in our public as well as in our private life.

Sir Stafford Cripps

SCHOOLGIRLS are better at maintaining their cycles than boys.

A Police-Sergeant

DANCE music? You mean that vulgar, raucous, discordant abomination sometimes inaccurately called music, but the proper name for which is jazz.

Judge Tudor Rees

TOPPING

IT was reported from the recent Toy Fair at Harrogate that the whip and top is now the hardest toy to sell. This is said to be not because of the attractions of more elaborate toys but because few tops were made in the war years and children of today have forgotten how to use them.

Well, whipping of any kind is out of fashion, and tops generally seem to be things of the past. We wonder how many C.N. fathers could still spin a top down the string or catch one on their hand as they did in the days of their youth?

Milk Galore

FOR the first time in the lives of eight-year-olds people in this country can now buy as much milk as they can afford, or as their dairy can supply, for it is still necessary to be registered as a customer.

Our farmers and cattle-breeders are to be congratulated on their splendid efforts; for plenty of the right kind of milk—from cows free from tuberculosis—is the finest food young people can have to keep them fit and make them strong.

Editor's Table

CHILDREN should not call each other names. But what else can they call each other?

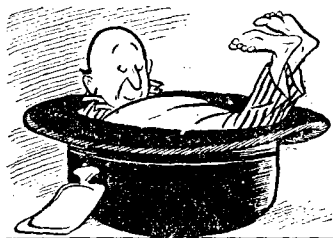
□

A SCOTSMAN off to America isn't taking his bagpipes. But he will have a blow on the ocean.

□

A THIN girl needs to choose a party dress with more care than a plump one. But with less material.

□



A CERTAIN bald-headed man always goes to bed in his hat. Must be a little fellow.

FRIENDSHIP CASTLE

JUST outside Salzburg, in one of the loveliest parts of Austria, a group of young American students are building a castle of friendship. The building itself has been there for many years, but pouring into it are ideas and personalities which make for international good will.

Inspired with the idea of bringing America and Europe closer together, these young Americans have within a few months brought together over a hundred students of fifteen European countries to meet students and professors from across the Atlantic.

As they moved about Europe these Americans felt that most young people did not know what was happening in the outside world. So Schloss Leopoldskron is opening its doors, and also opening the eyes and minds of its guests. Specialists in economics, sociology, and psychology from America are having a hearing for the first time in Europe.

But the Americans are not just teaching; they are learning, too, that Europe still has much to give to the world.

Advice From an Athlete

A YOUNG man with a formidable task ahead of him is Sergeant John Disley of the Royal Army Educational Corps, now receiving special training from the Amateur Athletic Association's Coach, Geoffrey Dyson.

Five or six times a week he is out on the track preparing diligently for the two-mile steeplechase, for Mr Dyson has set his pupil a stiff target for this year—to run the steeplechase in 9 minutes 56 secs. If successful he will set up a record over ten seconds faster than that of the famous Finn, V. Iso-Hollo, who achieved the best-ever performance in our Amateur Athletic Championships in 1933.

Sergeant Disley, who is 21, has a special word of advice for athletic C.N. readers. "Although it is a good thing for young people to be serious about their athletics," he says, "they should not overdo things in the early days. Don't do too much training or run too many races. In fact, moderation in all things is the best advice for the would-be athlete."

Youth and the Council

SOUTHWARK BOROUGH COUNCIL are fully aware of the importance of giving boys and girls an insight into the machinery of local government. Young people have always been encouraged to watch council meetings. Now it is announced that after their meetings the chairmen of the various committees will receive parties of boys and girls and answer civic questions.

This is a step in the right direction. It is essential that the men and women of tomorrow should know how the men and women of today manage the affairs of the community. As the Greek philosopher Diogenes said: The foundation of every State is the education of its youth.

OPEN TO THE WIND

A NEW American factory has just been completed without walls.

The new plant of the Corn Products Refining Company extends over 140 acres at Nueces Bay, Corpus Christi, in Texas, yet most of its 21 major structures are entirely without walls. This revolutionary method has not only lowered the cost of building but has also solved certain problems of processing.

There is always a risk of explosions from dust and sulphuric acid fumes in the process of refining sorghum and corn into starch, sugar, and high-protein cattle feed, and these dangers are normally combated by systems of air purification. In this new plant the sea breezes from the Gulf of Mexico sweep through the plant and cleanse it of fumes.

Railings are erected to prevent the workers from falling from the floors, and slightly overhanging ceilings give protection from infrequent showers. The boilers are entirely out-of-doors.

A Wise Pet



Peter, the brown owl who has been living with the Simpson family at Bristol since he was a fledgling, is here seen perched on top of the sewing-machine while 19-year-old Mavis gets on with her work.

7000 Miles to Grow Dates

NOW on a 7000-mile journey from London, travelling alone in a specially-fitted jeep, is Mr V. H. Dowson, British expert in date culture. His mission is to establish experimental date plantations in British Somaliland with a view to eventual large-scale cultivation there.

During the journey, which is expected to take about two months, Mr Dowson will also study methods of date culture in many other countries along the route, including Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Cyrenaica, the Sudan, and Eritrea. He expects an easy journey as far as Egypt, but anticipates difficulties on his lonely drive through the Northern Sudan desert and the wilds of Southern Eritrea.

The Somaliland date industry is only in its infancy, and last year £76,000 was spent on imported dates. The present scheme, which is financed under the Colonial Development Act, is intended to yield enough dates to satisfy the Protectorate's own requirements, thus releasing valuable foreign exchange for other vital imports.

The full benefits of the plan will not be seen for some time, as date trees do not mature until 20 years old.

Founder of the Garden City

A HUNDRED years ago, on January 29, 1850, a boy was born in the City of London who was destined to make the lives of many people both healthier and happier; for this boy grew up to be the Father of the Garden City.

He was called Ebenezer, like his father, Ebenezer Howard, who was a confectioner and owned several sweet shops in and near the City. After leaving school young Howard became a clerk for stockbrokers, merchants, and solicitors in London, and was for a time private secretary to Dr Joseph Parker, the famous preacher at the City Temple.

At the age of 22, however, the restless, adventurous young man went to America to see what opportunities that great new country had to offer him. For a few months he worked on a farm in Nebraska; then he became a shorthand writer in Chicago; and in 1877 he decided to return to England. Here he was to earn his living as a shorthand writer in the Houses of Parliament and the Law Courts for the rest of his life.

Utopian Dreams

In America Ebenezer Howard had come under the spell of such practical idealists as Emerson and Walt Whitman, and in 1898, when Looking Backward, Edward Bellamy's Utopian dream of America in the year 2000, was published he resolved to work towards a Utopia in England. He wrote a book which, under the title of Garden Cities of Tomorrow, was to have an influence as great in its way as Bellamy's.

Many men before Ebenezer Howard had foreseen the disaster which must befall England if the towns continued to draw so many people away from the country; not only was the countryside being steadily drained of its life blood, but the congestion in the towns was growing ever more appalling, and with it the health of the people was endangered. But Howard was the first man to make a serious contribution towards the solution of this problem.

Howard believed that access to the countryside was as necessary for the moral and spiritual development of man's mind as it was for the health of his body; but he saw, too, that the town had many things to offer which could not be enjoyed in the

country. So he proposed the building of towns of limited size, spaciouly planned, with their own industries, and surrounded by a rural belt; and he proceeded to draw up plans for such a town.

By 1903 the Garden City Association which he had founded had gained enough support for their ideas to form a company. A large estate was bought at Letchworth in Hertfordshire, and developed according to the principles laid down by Howard. This was the real beginning of planned development as opposed to haphazard growth. Since then garden cities have been built at Welwyn and at Wythenshawe, and the principle has been adopted for the new satellite towns now being built.

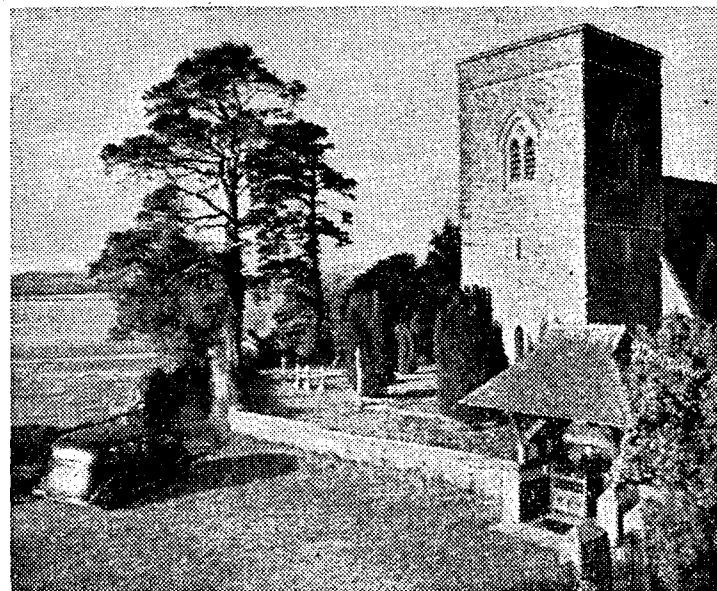
Moreover, Howard's influence has been far greater than is indicated by the garden cities, for on the Continent and in America, as well as in Britain, it has left its mark in the well-laid-out streets and pleasant houses of many towns and suburbs.

Ebenezer Howard never made any money from his schemes. He continued to earn his living as a shorthand writer until he was seventy; but when this modest, unassuming little man died on May 1, 1928, at his home in Welwyn Garden City, he had the satisfaction of knowing that he had done something to make the world a better place to live in.

BRIGHT IDEA

WHAT is claimed to be the largest privately owned day nursery in the world has been opened at Rochdale. It has been built for John Bright and Brothers, a cotton firm, and provides accommodation for 168 children whose mothers work in the factories. In addition, 48 boys and girls between the ages of five and ten are accommodated for meals and during school holidays.

It is interesting to note that the present building is only 100 yards from where one of the first works-schools in the country was opened by Jacob Bright, brother of the famous John.



OUR HOMELAND

Llangasty Talyllyn Church, by Llangorse Lake, Brecon

Testing Our Cows For the Tropics

At the Hannah Dairy Research Institute, near Ayr, an interesting experiment is being made which may lead to the breeding of certain types of dairy cattle specially suited to tropical climates. A room there can reproduce the wide range of temperatures and humidity of tropical and sub-tropical countries, and from an adjoining observation room the animals' reactions to the varying conditions can be studied. Electrical devices enable the scientists to keep a continuous record of a cow's rate of pulse and respiration.

The reason for this experiment is that in the past it has been found that cows such as Ayrshires, with high milk yield, deteriorate quickly when exported to tropical countries, and as a consequence overseas buyers of cattle in such countries are becoming reluctant to buy high-priced pedigree cattle from Britain which may soon be reduced to a poorer condition than the native breeds.

To find the answer to this problem the Hannah Institute will continue research work for five or six years, and this may be followed by breeding experiments in the African colonies.

Cross-breeding may be the solution. For example, the Zebu types of cattle found in many hot countries are almost hairless, while the Ayrshire has a warm coating of hair. A breed of cattle with a large milk yield like that of the Ayrshire, but with little hair, might be the answer.

WORLD RECORD FOR CHURCHER

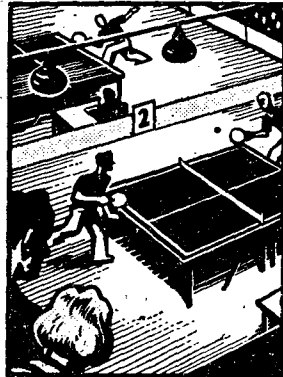
It is not often, alas, that an English athlete sets up a world record; but when the International Amateur Athletic Federation recently announced a number of newly-ratified world records, they confirmed that the time for the 5-mile walk, 35 minutes 33 seconds, accomplished last summer by Harry Churcher, has never been bettered.

Well done, Churcher!

Steps to Sporting Fame



Next week Johnny Leach will be defending his world table tennis title in Budapest. This great player was born in London on November 20, 1922.



Leach is a fighter, afraid of nobody. Watching the stars, he determined to reach the top himself, and his efforts were crowned with the success he deserved at Stockholm a year ago.

Johnny Leach



Johnny is not a genius. He made himself the player he is by assiduous practice, perfecting his strokes one by one until it can be said of him that he has no apparent weakness.



Five years in the R.A.F., he exhibited to troops in many countries after his demobilisation. Table tennis is his supreme sport, but he also swims, plays golf, cricket, lawn tennis, and badminton.

All in the Day's Work

The trials of two patrol officers who set out to establish a trading post on the Liverpool River in darkest Arnhem Land are graphically told in a report submitted on their return to Darwin a few days ago. Here are three items:

A native told them his brother was ill, but would not say what was wrong, so he was told to bring him along to the sick parade next morning. He came—with a shovel-nosed spear sticking in his side. He had been "playing" with his friends, he explained.

An epidemic of measles broke out—and medical supplies ran out. With one shovel and one axe and the help of natives, the two officers prepared a landing strip in a week, and the flying doctor arrived from Darwin with the urgently-needed medicine.

Their launch, the Amity, settled with the tide on a submerged tree, and sank while the two patrol officers were asleep. They fought their way out of the boat and swam to the shore through waters infested with sharks and crocodiles.

KNELL OF A SPIRE

Suffolk has comparatively few church spires, and so it is sad to learn that one of these landmarks is likely to disappear from the landscape.

The little spire of the ancient church in the village street at Middleton, not far from historic Dunwich, has been found unsafe and a faculty has been granted for its removal. Covered with lead, it is said to have been made out of one solid block of oak.

The square flint-and-stone tower below the spire has five bells. In 1779 three of them were cast at a London foundry and an item in the accounts of the churchwardens records that the sum of a guinea was paid to the boatmen of Aldeburgh for transporting them from the River Thames.

Water For the Prairie—Harnessing Four Rivers

About 6000 acres of prairie will be irrigated for the first time this year as part of a great plan to safeguard some of Canada's richest agricultural land. When complete, the scheme will bring new life to nearly half a million acres of southern Alberta lying between Medicine Hat and the Rocky Mountains.

This gigantic engineering task is being carried out by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, a branch of the Department of Agriculture. The P.F.R.A. was founded in 1935 to fight the effects of the drought which turned the great central plains of North America into a huge "dust-bowl."

The Canadian prairie, where only a century ago vast herds of buffalo roamed over the scrubby grass, has become one of the most fertile wheat-growing areas in the world. But harvests have never been free from the danger of drought, and there is always the threat that the top-soil, the precious result of ages of natural growth, may be stripped off by the wind and lost for ever.

Rainfall in this region is low, averaging only 15 inches per year, and is especially scanty during the hot growing months when it is most needed. Several rivers flow across the prairie and

already irrigate thousands of acres, but there is no storage to guarantee water in time of drought. Under the new scheme, great storage reservoirs are to be built on the four rivers—Waterton, Belly, St Mary, and Milk—and a network of canals cut to distribute the water over the area.

The largest dam being built is across the St Mary River. It is 186 feet high and contains about five million cubic yards of earth, dragged into place and consolidated by a team of Diesel-electric scrapers and bulldozers. The dam will form a reservoir from which the water will be carried away in an open

canal, 56 feet wide and 16 feet deep, to feed the numerous branches.

Each coming year will see a further 50,000 acres under irrigation until the scheme is completed. It is intended to cultivate the newly-irrigated land on a four-year rotational system, so as to keep it fertile and healthy. The four main crops will be sugar beet, wheat, beans and peas for canning, and hay crops for feeding cattle.

Soil erosion threatens to become the greatest problem of our century, but in their bold peace offensive Canadian engineers are showing how even this enemy can be overcome.

CONQUEST OF MALARIA IN CYPRUS

The great campaign to exterminate malaria-carrying mosquitoes in Cyprus is victorious, and it is claimed that not one is left.

For three years a gallant little army of Cypriots have been spraying with DDT every place where mosquitoes could breed. The work was often dangerous, as when they entered caves infested with snakes, or were lowered down the sides of precipices.

The number of people suffering

from malaria before the war was as high as 18,000 a year, but last year no new case was recorded and there were only just over 100 sufferers who had contracted the disease earlier.

The leader of the campaign was a pupil of Sir Ronald Ross, a Cypriot named Mehmed Aziz, whose name was in the New Year Honours.

The cost was about £300,000, of which the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund contributed £20,000.

JOHN GILPIN'S RIDE—Picture-Version of the Merry Ballad by William Cowper (2)



"Stop, stop, John Gilpin! Here's the house!" They all at once did cry: "The dinner waits and we are tired," Said Gilpin, "So am I." But yet his horse was not a whit inclined to tarry there; For why? His owner had a house full ten miles off, at Ware. So like an arrow swift he flew, Shot by an archer strong; So did he fly—which brings me to The middle of my song. Away went Gilpin, out of breath, And sore against his will, Till at his friend the Calender's His horse at last stood still.



Said John: "It is my wedding-day, And all the world would stare If wife should dine at Edmonton And I should dine at Ware." So, turning to his horse, he said: "I am in haste to dine; 'Twas for your pleasure you came here, You shall go back for mine." Ah, luckless speech and bootless boast! For which he paid full dear; For while he spake a braying ass Did sing most loud and clear; Whereat his horse did snort, as he Had heard a lion roar, And galloped off with all his might, As he had done before.



Now, Mistress Gilpin, when she saw Her husband posting down into the country far away, She pulled out half-a-crown, And thus unto the youth she said That drove them to the Bell, "This shall be yours when you bring back My husband safe and well." The youth did ride, and soon did meet John coming back again; Whom in a trice he tried to stop, By catching at his rein; But not performing what he meant, And gladly would have done, The frightened steed he frightened more, And made him faster run.

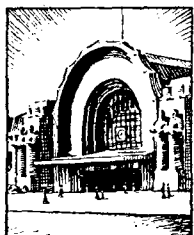


Away went Gilpin, and away Went postboy at his heels, The postboy's horse right glad to miss The lumbering of the wheels. Six gentlemen upon the road Thus seeing Gilpin fly, With postboy scampering in the rear, They raised the hue and cry. And now the turnpike gates again Flew open in short space; The tollmen thinking, as before, That Gilpin rode a race. And so he did, and won it, too, For he got first to town; Nor stopped till where he had got up He did again get down.

A new picture-version of *Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson's great adventure story, begins next week. Order your C N now

The Children's Newspaper, January 28, 1950

JANE & DAVID ON TOUR WITH THE OPERA



Helsinki Railway Station

New Series of Short Stories

by GEOFFREY TREASE

The Hump in Helsinki

"I SAY—Jane!"

David knocked again on the door of the hotel bedroom. A cross voice called impatiently:

"Oh, come in!"

Jane was tugging at her hair with a comb and scowling into the mirror at the result. When she turned he saw that her usually lively blue eyes were dull and sulky.

"What do you want?" she demanded.

David was taken aback by the question. In all the weeks that he and Jane had been touring the cities of Europe with their parents' opera company, they had always got on splendidly. They had had plenty of arguments, a tiff now and then, but never a quarrel of any kind.

They had gone everywhere together as a matter of course, since no other children were travelling with the company. It seemed to him the most natural thing in the world that, being ready to go out, he should knock on Jane's door and collect her.

"I'm ready, if you are," he said cheerfully.

"Ready for what?"

"To go out, of course."

"Who said I wanted to go out?"

David blinked. He was not used to this Jane. He had not yet learnt two useful things for any boy to know—that no girl likes to be taken for granted, and that even the perfect companion can become a bore, after weeks of travel together.

If David had been wise, he would have made some good-humoured remark and gone off to amuse himself in Helsinki alone. In which case either Jane would have run after him to the lift, or she would have been extremely pleased to see him at lunch-time.

Instead, he made the mistake of saying in a hurt tone: "What's the matter with you?"

Jane flushed.

"Nothing's the matter with me!"

"You sound as though you'd got out of bed the wrong side this morning." This was more true than tactful.

"If you've only come in here to be rude to me—" she began irritably, and then changed her line abruptly, as though suddenly deciding that a little sympathy would be more pleasant than a row with David. "As a matter of fact," she went on, "I don't feel so good. I hope I'm not sickening for anything."

DAVID'S mind flew back to a great party which had taken place the previous day at the British Embassy. The whole company had been invited and, as a special treat, Jane and David had been allowed to sit up for the first part of the proceedings.

The food had been wonderful, much fuss had been made of the English schoolgirl, and they had been very late in getting to bed. If Jane looked rather pasty-faced on the morning after, it was nothing to be worried about.

Even David realised, however, it would not be wise to mention this. He looked as sympathetic as he could.

"I do hope you're not!" he agreed. "It would be sickening—I mean, it would be rotten—to be ill in a foreign country."

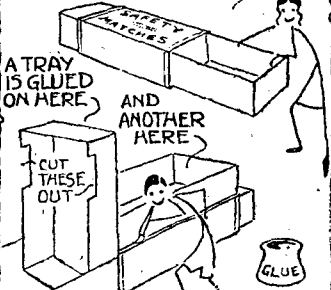
"It would be even worse," said Jane gloomily, studying her face once more in the mirror, "to die in a foreign country, far from England and all one loved."

"Oh, but your father's here," David pointed out, trying to look on the bright side, "and the guidebook says the cemetery here is 'the most beautifully situated in the whole of Northern Europe, and affording from its terraces a fine view of the sea.'"

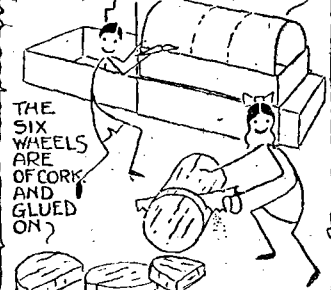
"A fat lot of good that is, if you're dead!"

Build this toy with the . . . INDUSTRIOUS IMPS

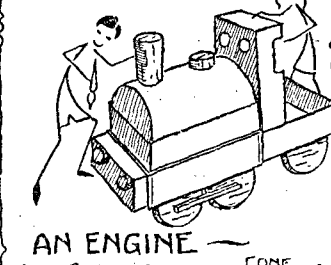
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DAVID came to the conclusion that there was no pleasing some people, in some moods. He felt quite sure that Jane was not ill. She had got the hump. He got it himself, sometimes.

"Well, how about some fresh air?" he suggested. The central heating and double windows of the Finnish hotel might not be too good for a headache. "It's our last clear day in Helsinki," he reminded her.

"I hate Helsinki!" she growled. This, he knew, was completely untrue. They had loved their week in the beautiful capital of Finland. They would always remember the sweeping crescent of that bay—the white stone buildings rising from the frozen harbour, the towers and spires and domes glinting in the winter sunshine, and the wide streets with their ultra-modern architecture.

Jane had the honesty to correct herself at once, as though ashamed of what she had said.

"No, I don't hate it," she added, "but we've seen everything. Where could we go?"

David sat down on the end of the bed and flicked over the pages of the guidebook.

THEY had certainly seen a good deal during the past week. They had seen the old fortress of Suomenlinna frowning over the granite rocks at the harbour mouth, and they had climbed the great flight of steps to St Nicholas's Cathedral. Another day they had tramped up through the snow-hung thickets of mountain ash to the sports hut at Taivaskallio. They had visited the little bathing-beach at Hietaranta, so crowded in summer but so desolate now. Jane had wanted to see just how big it was because (the guidebook said) every single grain of sand had been brought there and spread by men.

The artificial beach had proved to be five or six hundred yards long. It must have been a tremendous job making it. It was lucky, the children had decided, that there was almost no tide in the land-locked Baltic Sea, or it would soon have been washed away.

Yes, thought David, if only it were summertime now, the problem would have been easy. He would have taken her off for a bathe at Hietaranta, and let her swim until she got rid of the cobwebs in her mind. But this was January, and the Gulf of Finland was crusted with ice.

"There's the art gallery—" he began dubiously.

"We've seen hundreds of art galleries on this tour," she interrupted. "I don't care if I never see another."

"Mother mentioned a symphony concert today. All Finnish music—Sibelius and—"

"I couldn't stand music," she decided, "not even in a cinema. It would make my head ache."

David stood up.

"Perhaps, after all, you'd better lie down," he said helplessly, "and I'll go off on my own."

"Oh, no—that would worry Daddy. He'd send for a doctor or something."

With a martyred expression Jane huddled into her warm coat and scarf, and they set off.

A CHILL wind was sweeping over the wide expanse of Station Square as they emerged from the hotel. David glanced

Continued on page 10

What every Guide should know about cycling



A Guide should know the highway code, she ought to know a lot about her own cycle and above all she should know the best cycle to own. The Finest Bicycle Built To-day is a Hercules—it's so smooth running, so easy to ride.

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H137



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THE HUMPH IN HELSINKI

Continued from page 9

right and left, waiting for her to decide which way.

There stood the great arch of the railway terminus, its entrance flanked by statues of two colossal genii, holding globes which at night would blaze with electricity. It might well be the most beautiful railway station in the world—but they had already seen it—every day for the past week.

"Which way?" asked David.

"Does it matter?"

And for some time they mooched along the pavements with hardly a word. To David, it seemed the longest and gloomiest walk they had ever taken together. At last Jane paused.

"Let's go in here."

"It looks like a museum," he warned her.

"Never mind. It'll get us out of the cold. And we can have a sit down. You seem to forget," she added in a hurt voice, "that I'm not feeling well."

BUT, once inside the building, Jane felt no desire to sit down. She moved rapidly from one exhibit to another with exclamations of fascinated horror.

Indeed, though they found out afterwards that the place bore the dull title of the Social Museum, it was quite as exciting as the Chamber of Horrors at Madame Tussaud's in London.

The first room was filled with life-like figures standing at machines—or lying prostrate beside them after fearful accidents. Notices, printed not only in Finnish but in the main foreign languages, explained the purpose of the exhibits—to show

the right way and the wrong way of using tools and machines, and how to avoid accidents and explosions.

Moving on into further galleries they saw represented every kind of mishap likely to befall children—every ailment, the right way to treat it, and the wrong. And what happened if the mother used the wrong treatment.

Jane smiled wanly, her first smile of the day. "Makes you wonder how we ever survived!" she commented.

THEN they went on to study the right and wrong ways to instal electricity—with vivid tableaux depicting the effects of any mistakes.

"Aren't you tired?" David asked as they climbed the stairs.

"Tired?" she snorted. "I'm going to see it all—it's jolly interesting!" And she hurried on to the gallery which dealt with Gas and Chemical Poisoning.

"Well, that seems to be everything," said David an hour later, when they had worked round the Common Maladies and Tuberculosis Room. He felt dead-beat and was seriously beginning to wonder whether he was not himself sickening for a few of the ghastly diseases they had seen displayed.

"Do you feel all right?" he asked anxiously as they stepped out into the cold fresh air.

"All right?" Jane turned a face from which every trace of sulkiness had gone. "Of course I'm all right—I feel grand! Isn't it wonderful to think of all the horrible things one hasn't got? Isn't it grand to be alive?"

Hamburg is the scene of Jane and David's next adventure. Do not miss it. Order next week's CN now.

BEDTIME CORNER

Sam Starling Springs a Surprise

IT was one of those still winter days when the sun shines warmly and the birds feel up-and-aboutish. "We must do something special today," they said.

"How about a singing competition to choose who shall have first turn at the bird table?" suggested Sam Starling.

"Good idea!" said the Robin. "I'll sing, for one."

"And I..." said the Missel-thrush and the Blackbird together.

"Me, too," said Sam Starling. Which made all the others hide their beaks under their wings and laugh. For they'd never heard him singing anything but: "P-p-p-p-p" and "Sweeeek!"

However, they agreed to meet by the yellow chimney-pots on the red-roofed house at midday.

When they were ready, the Robin said: "I'll begin, for I'm the best-known winter singer." So he hopped on the highest chimney-pot, and sang

a clear sweet song about holly berries and dead leaves blowing and fire-lit windows in the dusk.

"Bravo!" cried the others.

"I'll sing next," said the Missel-thrush. "For I am the bird of early spring winds and rain." So he sang bold and loud, about storm-tossed trees and spring rain that wakes violets and primroses from their winter sleep.

"Bravo! Bravo!" cried the others.

"I'll sing next," said the Blackbird. "For I am the bird of the coming summer." So he sang a fluting song of apple trees in bloom, and buttercups and daisies.

"Bravo! Bravo!" cried the others.

Then up to the chimney-pot swaggered Sam. "Sweeeek!" he went. Then he sang a verse from the Robin's song, and one from the Missel-thrush's, and one from the Blackbird's, finishing up by mewing like a cat, and crying like a baby.

"Sam's the winner!" they all cried. JANE THORNICROFT



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TO COMMEMORATE

our first advertisement appearing in "The Children's Newspaper," we are pleased to announce that the usual prices of our stamp packets will be cut by half. As this reduction of prices will apply in this one instance only, will readers please mention "The Children's Newspaper" of January 28th when replying.

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The Children's Newspaper, January 28, 1950

£750 SCHOOL QUIZ

Principal Winners

THE examination of entries in this Children's Newspaper competition has now been completed, and the Editor has pleasure in announcing the principal prize awards.

That the Quiz aroused wide interest is proved by the very large entry received, and the Editor thanks the many schools and teachers who co-operated and showed so much interest in the event.

In both groups a number of entrants answered all the fifteen question-pictures correctly, and in judging these for the chief prizes, therefore, handwriting (or printing) and general neatness according to age were taken into account. These awards are:

GROUP 1

(Pupils under 12)

First School Prize of £25 and Pupil's Prize of £5: SHEELAGH G. COLWELL, of King's Drive School, Heaton Moor, Nr Stockport.

Second Prize—School, £20, Pupil £4: KENNETH J. F. HALL, of Aberdeen Grammar School, Aberdeen.

Third Prize—School £15, Pupil £3: PATRICIA MORTIMER, of The Abbey School, Reading, Berks.

Fourth Prize—School £10, Pupil £2: CHRISTINE MILES, of Worthing Girls' High School, South Farm Road, Worthing.

Fifth Prize—School £5, Pupil £2: GEOFFREY G. ATTRIDGE, of Bridge Primary School, Station Road, Harrow, Middx.

GROUP 2

(Pupils aged 12 to under 17)

First School Prize of £25 and Pupil's Prize of £5: PAMELA MARTIN, of Woodford County High School, Woodford, Essex.

Second Prize—School £20, Pupil £4: BRYAN T. PECK, of Perse School for Boys, Hills Road, Cambridge.

Third Prize—School £15, Pupil £3: ANNE GARRARD, of Sconce Hills Secondary School, Newark.

Fourth Prize—School £10, Pupil £2: RICHARD HENRY BAILEY, of Southbourne Preparatory School, Southbourne Road, Bournemouth.

Fifth Prize—School £5, Pupil £2: PAMELA W. HUMPHRIES, of S.E. Essex County Technical College, Longbridge Road, Dagenham.

1600 CONSOLATION PRIZES

Although originally 1500 Consolation Prizes were offered the number has been increased to 1600. These prizes consist of Cameras, Footballs and Netballs, Meccano Sets, Fountain-pens, and so on, and have been divided between the two age groups in proportion to the numbers of entries received in each group.

The Consolation Prizes in Group 1 are awarded for the remaining correct entries, all entries containing one error only, and those with two errors which were also the best-written in relation to age. In Group 2 the remaining attempts which were correct receive Consolation Prizes, and also the best-written of the one-error attempts.

We regret that owing to lack of space we cannot here print names of all winners, but the list of Quiz winners is being sent to every school which took part, and all prizes will be despatched as soon as possible.

CORRECT ANSWERS

Group 1

1, Amber. 2, Camel. 3, Half-Crown. 4, 21 Squares. 5, Eagle. 6, Aster. 7, C. 8, Coconut. 9, Frog. 10, Beadle. 11, Bee. 12, Apricot. 13, Lieutenant-General. 14, Seven. 15, Row C.

Group 2

1, New Zealand. 2, Walnut. 3, Bison. 4, Granny-Knot. 5, Irish Guards. 6, Autogiro. 7, Trumpet. 8, The Speaker. 9, B. 10, 600. 11, Narrow Bridge. 12, Starboard. 13, C. 14, Crawfish. 15, Washington.

Getting to Know the Turks

A woman dentist from Turkey, Mrs Fethiye Karman, who has been visiting Britain, has commented on the ignorance of some of us about her native land. She said one English lady asked how many wives she had to share her husband with. "Of course, we abolished harems long ago," remarked Mrs Karman.

It is indeed astonishing that some people should be unaware of the great social revolution through which Turkey has passed in the last 30 years. Polygamy—a man having more than one wife—which was already rare in Turkey, was abolished by law after Kemal Pasha proclaimed

the new Turkish Republic on October 29, 1923. Women were given the same rights as men. They no longer had to go about wearing veils. In 1932 women police were appointed.

The new Government was very keen on education, and Latin characters (like ours) were introduced for writing and printing, which made learning to read and write easier. Purely religious (Mohammedan) schools, where the children's main occupation was learning verses of the Koran by heart, were abolished in 1928, and schools like ours with plenty of gymnastics and sport were introduced.

MOST POPULAR NAMES

John and Ann, or Anne, were again favourite names for babies born last year.

Mr J. W. Leaver, who every year compiles a list of the most popular names for children whose births were announced in The Times, writes that in 1949 the order of popularity was, for boys: John, Richard, Peter, David, Charles, Michael, Wil-

liam, Robert, Christopher, James. And for girls: Ann or Anne, Mary, Elizabeth, Jane, Susan, Margaret, Sarah, Caroline, Jennifer, Frances.

Richard went up from fifth place in 1948 to second in 1949, while poor old Tony (Anthony) dropped out of the list. Among the girls, the first six were the same last year as in 1948.

A Critic Who Angered the Poets

JANUARY 26 is the centenary of the death of Francis, Lord Jeffrey, famous as a lawyer and a Scottish judge, and also the most famous editor and critic of his age.

Born in 1773 of a legal family, and educated at Edinburgh and Oxford, Francis Jeffrey was still a struggling lawyer when, in 1803, he became editor of the newly-founded Edinburgh Review. He remained editor for more than a quarter of a century, and made it one of the two most famous literary reviews in the world. It was for the Edinburgh that Macaulay wrote his famous Essays.

Jeffrey was a severely critical judge of literature, but his judgments were not always sound. Wordsworth, for instance, found it hard to forgive an essay on his work, which began: "This will never do"; Byron was goaded to reply in a famous poem; and Tom Moore, the Irish poet, was so stung by criticism that he challenged Jeffrey to a duel.

Lifelong Friends

Moore was five-foot high, Jeffrey little more, and the little men faced each other fiercely; but before either could fire his pistol the police swooped and took them both before a magistrate, who bound them over to keep the peace. (It was discovered afterwards that Jeffrey's pistol contained no bullet.) Keep the peace they did—they became lifelong friends, and once, when the poet was in money difficulties, Jeffrey, with characteristic generosity, sought to force a loan of £500 upon him.

All prospered with Jeffrey, and though he made enemies he also had noble friends. Sydney Smith declared "I love Jeffrey dearly"; Macaulay admired him for his sterling character and the astonishing range of his knowledge. The pick of the writings of Jeffrey, re-published in four volumes, were read long after his death, and he is still recognised as an important figure in the annals of our literature.

SPORTSMANSHIP

THE Union High School, Graaf Reiniet, in the Cape Province, has a brand-new trophy—the Smith-Mack Cup—to be awarded to the boy showing the highest spirit of sportsmanship during the year.

Here is the story behind the trophy.

Some time ago the Union High School held its annual cross-country run. Among the dozens of entrants were two outstanding sprinters, Ian Smith and Johnny Mack.

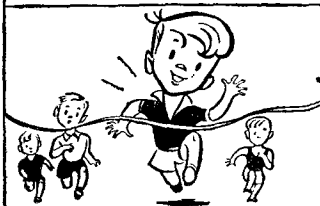
When the runners came into the last stretch, Ian Smith and Johnny Mack were running second and third respectively. Then, at a difficult bend, they saw that the leader had taken a wrong turning. Had they let him go on, one of the two would have won. Instead, they called him back, gave him his lead, and then continued the race.

This act of good fellowship so appealed to the people at Graaf Reiniet that a public appeal for funds was made, and the Smith-Mack Trophy is the outcome.

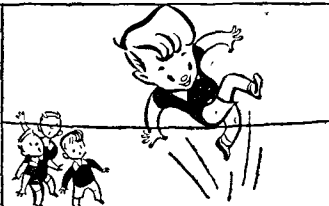


The Record Breaker

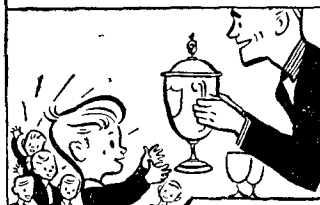
It's Sports Day at School. Jimmie and Billy, the boy next door, are all set to beat the record!



They're both in the 100 yds. sprint. "On your toes!" Gosh, just watch them go! Jimmie wins by yards.



Now for the High Jump. Jimmie reaches 4ft. 6ins. clearing 3 inches higher than Billy and wins another event.



Prizegiving. Jimmie's won 6 cups. "How do you do it?" asks Billy. "I never win." "Come home with me," grins Jimmie, "and I'll show you."



"Here's my secret," says Jimmie. "I train on Welgar Shredded Wheat. Mum gives it me for breakfast, tea or supper every day."



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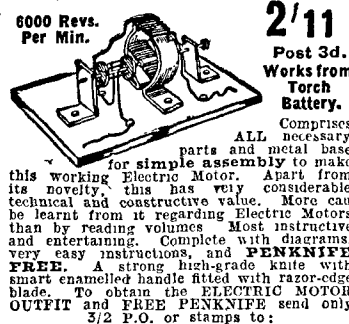
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THE BRAN TUB

CONCEIT

Two young ladies were standing in the crowded train.

"I wish that handsome young man would give up his seat for me," said one quite audibly.

And six men stood up.

Changing

I AM a flower made up of four letters; change my first and I become articles of clothing; change my second and I am a verb meaning to get up; change my third and I am a thick cord; change my last and I am a Scottish county. Answer next week

NO WONDER

SAID a puzzled old fellow named Dodd,

"This fish tastes remarkably odd."

Cried his wife, "Oh dear me; You've got cat's meat for tea. And the cat must have eaten your cod."

Cheap Trip

MAC: Since I left ye last night I've been right back hame.

Jock: Not tae Scotland, mon—that's impossible.

Mac: Aye, tae Scotland. When I left ye I hear-d a mon playing the bagpipes, and the music carried me right back hame.

A CATCH

HERE is a catch to try on your friends. Tell them that there are twelve elephants standing in single file, all facing the same way. How many of them could say: "My trunk is touching another elephant's tail?"

After they have carefully worked it out and answer eleven, you reply: "The answer is none. Elephants cannot speak."

Then prepare to run!

The Clock Strikes Thirteen

IN the fine church at Worsley, near Manchester, is a clock that strikes thirteen instead of one—and it was designed that way!

When the third Duke of Bridgewater was developing the coal mines on his lands his men were often late back to work after lunch, their excuse being that they could not hear the clock strike one. The duke decided to remedy that, and had a clock made that struck thirteen instead.

Jacko and Chimp Slide Ahead



"THE pond is fit for skating on now," said Jacko dolefully. "Not much use to us with our broken skates," mourned Chimp. They stood dejectedly watching the skaters for a while. Suddenly a gleam appeared in Jacko's eyes. "I've got it," he cried. "Come on." And off he dashed, followed by the mystified Chimp. Some time later they emerged from Jacko's house carrying two sledge runners and two poles with spiked ends. They hurried to the pond and fastened the runners to a punt! Then away they glided, singing gaily as befitted two "gondoliers."

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Elm's Enemy. "What are all these funny little grooves?" demanded Ann, pointing to an elm tree from which the bark had been stripped.

"I believe some sort of insect does it," replied her brother Don.

"It is the work of an elm-bark beetle—a thick, reddish-brown insect, about three-eighths of an inch long," said Farmer Gray, overhearing the children. "There are a great many varieties of bark beetles. Species can be identified by their burrows. The female of this species lays her eggs in one main gallery. Notice how all the grooves which radiate from it grow wider as they project farther from the main burrow. This is due to the rapid growth of the larvae."

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

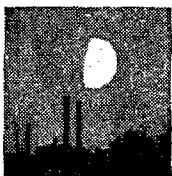
Can you add letters, one for each cross, to the following vehicle names to satisfy the clues?

1. CABxx . . . A very thick rope.
2. CARxxx . . . The main element of coal.
3. TAXIxxxxxxx—One who stuffs dead animals.
4. BUSxxx High boot, reaching to calf or ankle.
5. TRAMxxx—Shackle used in training horses.
6. CARTxxxxx—Gristle.

Answer next week

Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars and Saturn are low in the east and Uranus is in the south-east. In the morning Mars and Saturn are in the south-west. The picture shows the Moon at 7.30 on Friday evening, January 27.



He Knew the Symptoms

BILL and Jack were first-year students at the university.

"Did you pass your exam?" asked Bill.

"Well, it was like this," replied Jack. "You see—"

"Shake hands, old fellow. Neither did I."

RIDDLE-MY-NAME

MY first is in table, not chair; My second, in den, not in lair;

My third is in circus and fair; My fourth is in worry, not care; My last is in ladder, not stair. By this name many a girl is known.

Likewise a lovely precious stone. Answer next week

Canary Fish

THERE are several varieties of fish that can produce sounds. One of the most interesting is the little Mexico canary fish, which can make so much noise that it can be heard through the half-inch glass of an aquarium at a distance of ten yards.

In their native Mexican streams these fish migrate in large schools and the noise produced by all of them wailing in unison carries long distances.

TOO EXPENSIVE

ROBERTS had returned from a trip abroad and was making his report to one of his directors. Presently Roberts' expense sheet came under review.

"What is this large item?" queried the director.

"That's my hotel bill," replied Roberts.

"Well, don't buy any more hotels."

Sage Saw

A WISE man will waver, a fool is fixed.

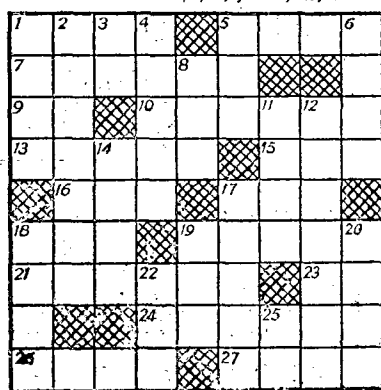
Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 To leap. 5 Sour. 7 Adept with bow and arrow. 9 Chartered Accountant. 10 Unimpaired. 13 To work up moist flour into dough. 15 River famous for its sands. 16 Ailing. 17 To affect with pain. 18 A public vehicle. 19 Starlike flower. 21 Recompense. 23 In this manner. 24 Experts. 26 Assistance. 27 Big plant.

Reading Down. 1 A ship's flag. 2 Element much used in atomic research. 3 Military Cross. 4 Small glass bottle. 5 Skill. 6 Fruit of a palm. 8 Termination. 11 Horizontal passage into a mine. 12 Sky blue. 14 Besides. 17 An article available for payment of debt. 18 Vessel for washing in. 19 To increase. 20 England's flower. 22 A light sleep. 25 Proportional Representation.

Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week.

The Children's Newspaper, January 28, 1950



Strange Subtraction

CAN you take 9 from 60 and leave—a farm building?

Answer next week

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Arithmetical problem Excellent (XLENT)
Double Word Square Leopard
Riddle-My-Name Francis
What Am I? Snow



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